

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CCO-00 OC-06 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 PER-01
CPR-01 SCA-01 SSO-00 /089 W
-----202218Z 106761 /70

P R 201645Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7679
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7113

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, OTRA, UR, US
SUBJECT: FSO PRESEL REFUSED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO LENINGRAD

REF: MOSCOW 6504

1. MFA PROTOCOL (VASILIYEV) TELEPHONED EMBASSY AFTERNOON
MAY 20 AND INFORMED EMBOFF PRESEL THAT HIS TRIP TO LENINGRAD
BY RAIL MAY 23-24 COULD NOT BE REGISTERED FOR "REASONS
OF A TEMPORARY NATURE". DENIAL OF TRAVEL TO LENINGRAD IS HIGHLY
UNUSUAL.

2. POL COUNSELOR STRONGLY PROTESTED THIS ACTION TO MFA
USA DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR FEDOSEYEV MAY 20. STATING
WE FIND IT INCONCEIVABLE THAT LENINGRAD, IN WHICH OUR
CONSULATE GENERAL IS LOCATED, CAN BE CLOSED TO EMBASSY
OFFICER, POL COUNSELOR CHARACTERIZED THE REFUSAL AS AN
ATTEMPT TO PREVENT NORMAL CONSULTATION BETWEEN MEMBERS
OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL. HE INQUIRED
WHETHER LENINGRAD WAS CLOSED ON MAY 24 TO
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DIPLOMATS OF ALL EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW. IF NOT,
THIS REFUSAL ALSO CONSTITUTES GROSS DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST U.S. EMBASSY.

3. FEDOSEYEV PREDICTABLY STATED HE WAS UNAWARE
OF REFUSAL SINCE THIS HAD EMANATED FROM PROTOCOL
DEPARTMENT, BUT HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

4. POL COUNSELOR THEN NOTED THAT PRESEL HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY DENIED TRIPS TO RIGA AND KAZAN ALTHOUGH AT LEAST IN CASE OF RIGA OTHER US CITIZENS (JOURNALISTS) HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO TRAVEL THERE DURING PERIOD FOR WHICH PRESEL HAD BEEN REFUSED. POL COUNSELOR ALSO NOTED FACT THAT PRESEL'S WIFE HAD BEEN TWICE DENIED TRAVEL TO CENTRAL ASIAN CITIES WHILE ON BOTH OCCASIONS PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THESE CITIES WERE NOT CLOSED AND THAT HER FATHER COULD TRAVEL THERE THROUGH INTOURIST. ALL THESE ACTIONS, POL COUNSELOR CONCLUDED, SEEMED TO CONSTITUTE A PATTERN OF DELIBERATE HARASSMENT AGAINST PRESEL AND WIFE, A CAMPAIGN WHICH INCLUDED HARASSING PHONE CALLS AND PICTURE-TAKING AT CLOSE RANGE, LATEST INSTANCE OF WHICH WAS MAY 20 PHOTOGRAPHIC EPISODE WHICH OCCURRED AS PRESEL WAS LEAVING NATIONAL HOTEL.
5. PRESEL SUBMITTED TRAVEL REQUEST TO TRAVEL TO LENINGRAD MAY 24-25. HE WILL CONTINUE TO REQUEST TRAVEL FOR SUBSEQUENT DAYS SHOULD THE SECOND REQUEST ALSO BE TURNED DOWN.
6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT TAKE APPROPRIATE RETALIATORY STEPS. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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